

Medicine and Books

Proper poorly

Medicine and Society in Wakefield and Huddersfield 1780-1870. H Marland. (Pp 528; figs; £40.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987. ISBN 0-521-32575-7.

Hilary Marland's title calls to mind J H Plumb's grouse that whereas Leopold Ranke, one of the founding fathers of modern historical scholarship, contemplated a *Universal History*, "his scholarly descendants prefer a five-hundred-page study of Tooting Bec or a hefty thesis on the Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railroad Strike of 1921." Indeed it is no surprise to discover that this volume evolved from a University of Warwick PhD thesis.

In fact the volume is less parochial than might be thought. Eschewing the great man, great discovery, great institution approach to the history of medicine, Marland focuses on the medical profession and on medical facilities for the poor in the provinces. Late eighteenth and nineteenth century Wakefield and Huddersfield provide a splendid opportunity for examining questions hitherto considered, if considered at all, in a metropolitan or larger context. It should be remembered that it is monographs such as this that generate debate, call into question long cherished myths, and contribute to the establishment of a new consensus.

Much of the first half of the volume concentrates on the principal institutions dispensing medical care to the working classes and the poor—namely, the medical poor law, medical charities, and friendly societies. In the north the poor law operated on a much smaller scale than in the south throughout the nineteenth century. This was partly because the industrial north was more prosperous but also because of stronger traditions of independence which fostered a network of medical charities, sick clubs, dispensaries, and a readiness to resort to the druggist and the quack. Although in individual cases medical relief could be relatively generous, it constituted only a small proportion of total poor law relief. Furthermore, both before and after the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act it was insignificant in comparison with private medical relief.

Medical charities and the friendly societies aided many more of the sick than did the poor law. Middle class support of the house of recovery and dispensary was often pragmatic. As well as conferring social and business advantages on donors it gave security to the institutions, which, with their emphasis on treating infectious disease and people hurt in accidents at work, removed the contagious from circulation and ensured that workers were back in harness with the minimum of delay. Contributions to infirmaries could also come cheaper than introduction of safety precautions, employment of factory surgeons, or compensation payments.

In contrast with the medical charities, friendly societies were important examples of working class self help. They were mainly concerned with paying monetary benefits rather than with providing medical care and attendance, but this suited the bulk of the membership, who, if the statistics are to be believed, suffered long term, chronic, and seasonal illness. For much of the nineteenth century medical science could do little to cure such cases, but a regular income could help to ward off pauperisation. Moreover, in concentrating on chronic cases the friendly societies filled a gap left by the medical charities and aided those most harshly treated by the poor law.

Despite noticeably increased provision of orthodox medical care, irregular practice continued to flourish long into the nineteenth century. Marland cites some alarming remedies such as earthworms

"slit and cleansed and washed from their slimy and earthy matter (half a dozen of them at least) and cut in pieces and chopped and a good mess of pottage made thereof." Mixed with oatmeal and water and taken daily for at least 12 days, this was apparently a sure cure for "black jundice."

The final chapters of the study concentrate on the development of the profession in the West Riding. Curiously, the author ignores the *BMJ* as a source of information on such questions as medical societies, intraprofessional conflict, and the campaign against quackery. Given that the *Journal* during the mid nineteenth century was aimed largely at provincial practitioners and dealt at length with provincial affairs, this is a notable omission.

Much of Marland's discussion supports or modifies rather than overturns the conclusions of historians like Peterson and Loudon.^{1,2} Moreover, some of her claims—for example, that she demonstrates the error of those who have discerned "substantial improvements in medical relief" before the 1860s (p 53)—are fanciful. Professor Flinn, who appears to be one of her targets on this point, states, in fact, that by the mid-1860s "thirty years of campaigning" had "produced only the most trifling of gains."³

The book bears the marks of its PhD origins in its somewhat ponderous lists of sources consulted and chapter objectives. On the whole, however, it is a readable and important addition to publications on the topic, though its readership is more likely to be the academic historian and his research students than the amateur with an intelligent interest in medical history.

PETER BARTRIP

1 Peterson MJ. *The medical profession in mid-Victorian London*. London: University of California Press, 1978.

2 Loudon I. *Medical care and the general practitioner, 1750-1850*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986.

3 Flinn MW. Medical services under the new poor law. In: Fraser D, ed. *The new poor law in the nineteenth century*. London: Macmillan, 1976:63.

At last

Clinics in Developmental Medicine. No 99/100 "Orthopaedic Management in Cerebral Palsy." E E Bleck. (Pp 508; figs; £28.) London: Mac Keith Press/Oxford: Blackwell Scientific/Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1987. ISBN 0-632-01523-3.

The quality of life for a child with cerebral palsy is often greatly improved by surgery, but the skill to make the appropriate clinical assessment is seldom available. Dr Eugene Bleck, chief of orthopaedic surgery at the Children's Hospital, Stanford, California, is a world authority on the subject, and his excellent book is essential reading for all concerned with the clinical care of children suffering from this condition.

Detailed surgical technique is not included in the text, but it will nevertheless educate orthopaedic surgeons about the concept of total management and offer guidance to paediatricians and therapists about the appropriate time to seek surgical advice. The introduction is a concise summary of the general aspects of cerebral palsy, discussing the various definitions, classifications, aetiology, and prevalence. The classification by types of movement disorder is illustrated by explicit diagrams.

The next two chapters on neurological, orthopaedic, and special

assessment are equally comprehensive and include the author's standard form for recording serial clinical data. If therapists and doctors adopted this systematic approach it would certainly enhance the management of their patients. There are useful paragraphs on developmental tests and the contribution of radiology and photography in assessment. Dr Bleck also discusses in detail the value of gait electromyograms, motion analysis and myoneural alcohol blocks in providing objective criteria for treatment.

The brief review of relevant neurobiological studies covers the development of the neurone (neurogenesis) and the mechanisms of recovery after degeneration (neuroplasticity) and mentions research on motor behaviour and the cortex and behaviour—particularly relevant with current consumer enthusiasm for certain treatment programmes.

In the chapter on management the author quotes "the child with cerebral palsy becomes an adult with cerebral palsy" to remind us that treatment and management should be based on the needs of adults for optimum independence. The various methods of physical therapy, including Peto's conductive education and other controversial programmes are clearly summarised with some evaluation of the techniques used. This section also covers an appraisal of plastering, orthoses, and the use of aids to posture, movement, and communication.

The last three chapters, occupying over 200 pages, are devoted to the orthopaedic management of the specific deformities seen in spastic hemiplegia and spastic diplegia and when the whole body is affected. Considerable emphasis is rightly placed on the detailed evaluation and prerequisites for surgery of the hand in hemiplegia. Surgical procedures for common deformities of the arm joints are covered, and the section on the legs includes the various techniques for managing equinus deformity and pes varus and valgus. In these chapters the vexed question of when and how to operate is clearly answered, and finally the risks of radiography in children are considered in the appendix. There are several pages of comprehensive references after each chapter, and throughout the book the many diagrams are of very high calibre.

I totally endorse the comment of the consultant orthopaedic surgeon, Mr Brian Roper, printed on the back cover that "this is the book we have all been waiting for."

JUDITH WILSON

A dermatological tour de force

Atlas of Clinical Dermatology. A du Vivier. (Pp 420; colour plates; £85.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone/London: Gower Medical Publishing, 1987. ISBN Gower 0-906923-29-8, Churchill Livingstone 0-443-03838-4.

"du Vivier's atlas" is likely to become a dermatological classic and a collector's item. Beautifully illustrated with more than 1500 colour photographs and accompanied by a well written, clear, and simple text, it covers all common skin disorders.

The photographs are of the highest quality. The colour is lifelike, the focus sharp, and there is a good mixture of long shots and close ups. Skin lesions are illustrated in both black and white patients. The legends to the figures are concise, always beginning with the name of the disease illustrated and followed by a brief sentence explaining a salient point. The text avoids the controversies and minutiae of dermatology and is equally suitable for medical students, general practitioners, or hospital doctors. There is a welcome scarcity of tables, and the index is comprehensive.

Dr Phillip McKee's histopathological contribution deserves equal praise. Good photomicrographs are complemented, in many places, by helpful line drawings. General pathologists who report skin sections will find the book extremely useful, providing a clinical companion to existing histological textbooks and atlases.

The manner of page numbering is somewhat unwieldy. A helpful addition, which would be amenable to pictorial representation,

would be a glossary of dermatological terms. It would be better to confine the terms toxic epidermal necrolysis and Lyell's syndrome to the drug eruption and not to use them for the staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome, and some would take issue with the author's decision to classify prurigo as a psychological disorder. Nevertheless, these points are minor and detract little from the book, which is very good value for money. The price may put it beyond the reach of individuals, so all medical libraries and practices will need at least two copies.

C M E ROWLAND PAYNE

Who needs horns?

More Dilemmas in the Management of the Neurological Patient. Ed C Warlow, J Garfield. (Pp 224; figs; £22.50 paperback.) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1987. ISBN 0-443-03739-6.

The trouble with medical textbooks is that they never seem to deal with the sort of problems that clinicians face every day. The typical case of this and that is well described, but real life patients are rarely typical, and the difficult problems they present are neglected in the books. *More Dilemmas* is not, thankfully, a textbook of neurology (there are enough of those already); it is a collection of writings from 26 authors about perplexing issues that arise in the management of neurological and neurosurgical patients. It makes the contributors' views and practices accessible to those who have not had the time or opportunity (or inclination) to receive such pearls of wisdom in the traditional way.

My only quibble is with the use of the term dilemma in the title. Though I accept that "more controversies" or "more problems" would be slightly hackneyed, these terms are really more appropriate for topics such as the clinical relevance of cerebral blood flow, genetic prediction in Huntington's disease, predicting the course of multiple sclerosis, whether neurological disability is measurable, and the (possible) vascular basis of migraine. This is not to say that these contributions fall short of excellence, but they do not present the reader with "a choice between two (or, loosely, several) alternatives, which are equally unfavourable" (the *Oxford English Dictionary's* definition). Perhaps the paucity of dilemmas so defined will demonstrate to cynical non-neurologists that the practice of neurology is not confined to choosing the lesser of two or more evils.

Dilemmas with horns are discussed by Marsden (the treatment of early Parkinson's disease), Galbraith (who looks after patients with head injuries, and where), Chadwick and Crawford (the management of unruptured arteriovenous malformations), Crockard (when to operate in spinal metastatic disease, and how), Bartlett (psycho-surgery), and Garfield (neurosurgical delegation). Other excellent reviews of controversial aspects of management come from Lambert (meningitis), McDonald (optic neuritis), and Pickard (benign intracranial hypertension).

Reading about others' ignorance and doubts is much more enjoyable than digesting conventional wisdom, and the contributors give much needed practical advice based on how they deal with dilemmas themselves. An excellent book, which I would recommend to all those dealing with neurological and neurosurgical patients. Here's to yet more dilemmas.

ANITA HARDING

In brief . . .

Perinatal pathology, formerly a topic of restricted interest, has become an important one for non-specialist histopathologists. Special care baby units are maintaining more neonates at the limits of viability, and necropsies on stillborn infants are taken more seriously than perhaps they once were. Thus, in a slowly declining total number of necropsies, the proportion that are perinatal has risen sharply. For this reason departments of general pathology will

welcome *Fetal and Neonatal Pathology* edited by J W Keeling (£99. London: Springer, 1987. ISBN 3-540-16211-9). Its distinguished editor has written six of the 28 chapters and has obtained the remainder from 22 colleagues in Britain, Europe, Canada, and Australia. Dr Keeling's own chapters on perinatal necropsy, congenital abnormality, macerated stillbirth, birth trauma and asphyxia, hydrops, and iatrogenic disease are outstandingly full and practical.

The answer to the question in its title is given at length in *What is Clinical Psychology?* edited by J S Marzillier and J Hall (£20 hardback, £9.95 paperback. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987. ISBN hardback 0-19-261516-5, paperback 0-19-261521-1). After opening with a very brief history of general psychology the book describes how clinical psychologists are trained, contrasting both with other related professions and with clinical psychologists' training in other countries, and then discusses what clinical psychologists do. The authors boil this down to: (a) assessing and understanding people and (b) intervening in their lives. Ensuing chapters describe the application of clinical psychology in a variety of settings and are written by able and respected exponents of those subjects.

The editors state that the book was written at least partly in response to friends, patients, and professional colleagues who ask, "What exactly is a clinical psychologist?" The problem is, do their friends, patients, and colleagues expect a 280 page answer? It is unfortunately reminiscent of Mr A Putey, of *Monty Python* fame, who, when asked to write an essay on "Why accountancy is not boring," wrote 19 excruciatingly dull pages on the subject. Mr Putey's mistake was to describe in laborious detail every moment of his day. These authors fall into a similar trap with little sifting of

Contributors

PETER BARTRIP is a historian at the University of Oxford.

JUDITH WILSON is a consultant community paediatrician at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, Middlesex.

C M E ROWLAND PAYNE is a lecturer and honorary senior registrar in dermatology at Westminster Hospital, London.

ANITA HARDING is reader in clinical neurology at the Institute of Neurology, London.

the stimulating from the mundane. The intention to demystify psychology is laudable, but the result is a catalogue of activity bereft of the stimulation and challenge that exists within clinical psychology. The lack of consideration of theoretical and conceptual issues, of the various, often heated, debates within clinical psychology and related professions, makes it a rather unexciting introduction to the topic, though patients may gain some reassurance in knowing what is likely to happen to them and that they are unlikely to be subjected to unpleasant procedures.

Some new titles

Geriatrics

Hospital Geriatric Medicine. A C D Cayley. (Pp 128; £7.95 paperback.) London: Arnold, 1987. ISBN 0-7131-4556-0.

Health care issues

The Economics of Health Care. An Introductory Text. A McGuire, J Henderson, G Mooney. (Pp 304; figs; £20 hardback, £8.95 paperback.) London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987. ISBN hardback 0-7102-0989-4, paperback 0-7102-1300-X.

Health Services Management Series. "Resource Management in the NHS." J Perrin. Series editor S Haywood. (Pp 200; figs; £15 paperback.) Wokingham: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987, in association with Health Services Management Centre. ISBN 0-7476-0005-8.

Ravenswood Publications Lecture Notes Series ISSN 0951-8061. "A Digest of Health Service Finance." D Tosey. (Pp 28; £6.95 paperback.) Beckenham: Ravenswood, 1987. ISBN 0-901812-70-6.

History of medicine

The Origins of Modern Psychiatry. Ed C Thompson. (Pp 296; figs; £29.50.) Chichester: Wiley, 1987. ISBN 0-471-91581-5.

Social and Economic History Series. "Sufferers and Healers. The Experience of Illness in Seventeenth-Century England." L M Beier. (Pp 328; figs; £30.) London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987. ISBN 0-7102-1053-1.

Medical education

Clinical Method: a General Practice Approach. Ed R C Fraser. (Pp 102; figs; £6.95 paperback.) London: Butterworth, 1987. ISBN 0-407-00430-0.

Introduction to Clinical Chemistry. D A Woodrow. (Pp 180; figs; £9.95 paperback.) London: Butterworth, 1987. ISBN 0-407-00254-5.

Pastest Pocket Series for MRCP Part 1. Book 1. "MCQs in Cardiology and Respiratory Medicine." Ed R L Hawkins. (Pp 80; £3.95 paperback.) Hemel Hempstead: Pastest Service, 1987. ISBN 0-906896-18-5.

Medicolegal

Studies in Law and Health Service Management. "An Introduction to the Law Relating to the Health Care Professions." P F C Bayliss.

(Pp 224; £24.50 hardback, £19.50 paperback.) Beckenham: Ravenswood, 1987. ISBN hardback 0-901812-63-3, paperback 0-901812-64-1.

Microbiology

Musculoskeletal Infections. W J Gillespie, S Nade. (Pp 408; figs; £45.) Melbourne: Blackwell Scientific, 1987. ISBN 0-867-93192-2.

Neurology

Pain. H L Fields. (Pp 368; figs; £39.) New York: McGraw-Hill, 1987. ISBN 0-07-020701-1.

Nursing

Nursing Today. "Nurses, Gender and Sexuality." J Savage. (Pp 176; £7.95 paperback.) London: Heinemann Nursing, 1987. ISBN 0-433-03491-2.

Nutrition

World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Vol 52. "Energy. Nutrition of Women." Volume and series editor G H Bourne. (Pp 276; figs; \$162.) Basle: Karger, 1987. Distributed by John Wiley and Sons. ISBN 3-8055-4664-5.

World Review of Nutrition and Dietetics. Vol 53. "Applied Nutritional Principles in Health and Disease." Volume and series editor G H Bourne. (Pp 312; figs; £124.10.) Basle: Karger, 1987. Distributed by John Wiley and Sons. ISBN 3-8055-4681-5.

Oncology

The Medical Management of Breast Cancer. C J Williams, R B Buchanan. (Pp 256; figs; £40.) Tunbridge Wells: Castle House, 1987. ISBN 0-7194-0103-8.

Ophthalmology

Contact Lens Optics. W A Douthwaite. (Pp 232; figs; £14.95 paperback.) London: Butterworth, 1987. ISBN 0-407-01330-X.

Diagnosis and Management in Vision Care. Ed J F Amos. (Pp 744; figs; £98.) Boston: Butterworth, 1987. ISBN 0-409-95082-3.

Systemic Inflammatory Disease and the Eye. W J Dinning. (Pp 260; figs; £30.) Bristol: Wright, 1987. Distributed by Butterworth. ISBN 0-7236-0777-X.

Uveitis. J J Kanski. (Pp 128; figs and colour plates; £29.50.) London: Butterworth, 1987. ISBN 0-407-01640-6.

Orthopaedics

External Fixation: Joint Deformities and Bone Fractures. M V Volkov, O V Oganessian. (Pp 384; figs; \$60.) Madison: International Universities Press, 1987. ISBN 0-8936-1795-5.

Paediatrics

Antimicrobial Therapy in Infants and Children. Ed G Koren, C G Prober, R Gold. Series editor F Lifshitz. (Pp 840; figs; \$198.) New York: Dekker, 1987. ISBN 0-8247-7745-X.

Children's Mental Health. Problems and Services. A report by the Office of Technology Assessment. D M Dougherty, L M Saxe, T Cross, N Silverman. (Pp 192; figs; £28.25 hardback, £9.45 paperback.) Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1987. ISBN hardback 0-8223-0796-0, paperback 0-8223-0815-0.

Pharmacology

International Encyclopedia of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Section 126. "Mechanisms of Cellular Transformation by Carcinogenic Agents." Ed D Grunberger, S P Goff. Executive editor A C Sartorelli. (Pp 448; figs; £95.) Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1987. ISBN 0-08-034204-3.

Physiology

Physiological Society Study Guides. No 3. "The Control of Breathing in Man." Ed B J Whipp. (Pp 144; figs; £22.50 hardback, £7.50 paperback.) Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1987. ISBN hardback 0-7190-2463-3, paperback 0-7190-2464-1.

Psychiatry

Diagnosis and Classification in Psychiatry. A Critical Appraisal of DSM-III. Ed G L Tischler. (Pp 560; £40.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987. ISBN 0-521-32366-5.

Seminars in Psychiatry. "Explorations in Psychoneuroimmunology." R Lloyd. Series editor M Greenblatt. (Pp 176; \$34.50.) Orlando: Grune and Stratton, 1987. Distributed by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. ISBN 0-8089-1854-0.